

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 HA-05 IO-13 /116 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6440
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 28176

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, CG
SUBJ: AFRICAN FORCE IN SHABA

REFS: A. STATE 211443. B. PARIS 28011.

1. IN AUGUST 22 MEETING WITH QUAI AFRICAN DIRECTOR
GEORGY (REF B) WE ASKED HOW LONG HE THOUGHT THE
AFRICAN FORCE WOULD HAVE TO STAY IN SHABA. HE NOTED
THAT THIS WOULD OF COURSE BE A MAIN TOPIC OF THE MEETING
WE HAD PROPOSED AND WE SHOULD ALL HAVE A BETTER
PERSPECTIVE AFTER THAT MEETING. HE PERSONALLY FEELS,
HOWEVER, THAT THE ANSWER DEPENDS ON PROGRESS IN THE
NORMALIZATION OF ZAIRE-ANGOLA RELATIONS. IF THEY
DEVELOP IN SUCH A WAY THAT THERE IS NO LONGER A
KATANGESSE THREAT, THEN THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR THE
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CONTINUED PRESENCE OF FOREIGN TROOPS, "ZAIRIAN POLICE
CAN DO THE JOB." GEORGY ADDED THAT IN ANY EVENT SOME
THINNING OUT OF THE FORCE SHOULD BECOME POSSIBLE IN
THE NEXT FEW MONTHS DEPENDING ON PROGRESS IN TRAINING
ZAIRIAN UNITS.

2. COMMENT: GEORGY WAS CLEARLY NOT YET PREPARED TO

GIVE A CONSIDERED ANSWER BUT HIS COMMENTS REFLECT WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE THE FRENCH VIEW THAT THE FORCE SHOULD BE TERMINATED AS SOON AS CONDITIONS PERMIT.

3. WE THINK IT WORTH NOTING THAT THE FRENCH (AND WE GATHER THE BRITISH ALSO) BRIDLE AT THE USE OF THE TERM "PAN AFRICAN FORCE" TO DESCRIBE THE AFRICAN UNITS IN SHABA. FOR THEM THAT TERM HAS APPARENTLY BEEN RESERVED TO DESCRIBE THE CONCEPT OF A PERMANENT AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE WHICH DOES NOT NOW EXIST. GIVEN AFRICAN SENSIBILITIES WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD PREFER THAT IT NOT BE USED TO DESCRIBE THE SHABA FORCE. WE SUGGEST THAT WE ALSO ADOPT A MORE NEUTRAL TERM SUCH AS "AFRICAN FORCE IN SHABA."
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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